Distr.
GENERAL

IDB.23/14
4 October 2000

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Industrial Development Board

Twenty-third session
Vienna, 14-16 November 2000
Item 8 of the provisional agenda

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Progress report by the Director-General

Reports on progress made by UNIDO in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/192 and earlier resolutions on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development.

1. In the 1990s, commencing with resolution 47/199, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a number of resolutions on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development within the United Nations system, which *inter alia* call upon the specialized agencies to submit yearly progress reports to their governing bodies on measures taken and to be taken for the implementation of those resolutions. In compliance with those mandates, the Director-General has submitted yearly progress reports to the Board.

2. The present report updates the information provided in document IDB.21/27, and also takes account of the elements contained in resolution 53/192 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its fifty-third session. Its contents should be considered in conjunction with other documents issued to the policy-making organs, in particular the annual reports of the Organization for 1998 and 1999. Specific topics are discussed in the *Annual Report of UNIDO 1999* that have a direct bearing on the measures called for by the General Assembly in resolutions on operational activities for development. The following list provides references to relevant parts of that document, while the present text highlights UNIDO's relevance with respect to the resolutions and the manner in which it develops and delivers technical assistance.

	1999 Annual Report (IDB.22, and Corr.1, chapter reference)
UNIDO in the field	I.B, appendix K*
Gender issues	II.A, Appendix L**
Global forum function	I.C.
Focus on Africa and least developed countries	II.B, appendix D
System-wide cooperation, including UNDAF	II.C

* See also document IDB.23/10.

** See also document IDB.22/5, chap. IV.

3. In view of the coverage of relevant issues in annual reports of the Organization, the Board may wish to consider whether the yearly progress reports called for in General Assembly resolutions on operational activities for development should be required as separate documents under a separate agenda item or whether future annual reports should provide the relevant information.

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V.00-57646 (E)

Distr.: 9 October 2000

4. UNIDO is supporting developing countries and economies in transition to adopt reforms designed to improve productivity and competitiveness to ensure that they have a place in global markets. These reforms must ensure that the new entrants to world markets encounter the human aspect of globalization and not its darker side, where wages are driven ever lower, working hours become ever longer, human respect becomes ever scarcer and the social and economic fruits of globalization are only enjoyed by a few. UNIDO's technical cooperation programmes and global forum activities support recipient countries in managing their own development process by giving people the education, training, information and knowledge that no market forces will automatically create.

5. Following the launch of UNIDO's successful reform in 1998, the Organization during 1999 and early 2000 concentrated on adjusting and refining programming and implementation methods, and on introducing quality control for its programmes and activities. UNIDO has delegated authority to intermediate management, particularly its integrated programme team leaders, and has started a major initiative to decentralize its field offices. UNIDO also consolidated a matrix working structure designed to provide verifiable quality services in an integrated fashion.

6. The reformed UNIDO allows it to deliver integrated technical cooperation support in a flexible manner according to the requirements of individual countries. Teams design and implement integrated programmes to ensure that the broad range of UNIDO's expertise is mobilized and coordinated for maximum impact in the field. The transformation can be seen most clearly in the radical change in the composition of the Organization's portfolio of programmes.

7. Nevertheless, to continue the implementation of reforms UNIDO will indeed require more resources in the future in the form of voluntary contributions. And it will require more political participation on the part of its Member States.

8. UNIDO is continuing its efforts to heighten the interest of its Member States in the ongoing, and increasingly relevant, social development contribution of sustainable industrial development—the business of UNIDO.

9. UNIDO has an important role to fulfil in the new architecture of the international economic system. The revitalization of UNIDO offers the opportunity to work together to defeat poverty, inequality and backwardness.

10. UNIDO works with the United Nations Development Programme and United Nations specialized agencies to ensure that its programmes complement their technical cooperation programmes, that UNIDO assistance fits into the common framework (United Nations Development Assistance Framework) and that complementarities lead to sustainable human development.

11. At this early stage, it is premature to assess conclusively the wide-scale impact of the integrated programmes on the lives of men, women and children in client countries. Solid groundwork has been laid and the tools and methodologies that have been put in place will ensure the future success of the programmes and the sustainable industrial development of the countries that own them. The new approach has resulted in a perceptible improvement in the way the Organization coordinates both with client and donor countries as well as with other agencies.

ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

12. The Board may wish to consider adopting the following draft decision:

"The Industrial Development Board:

"(a) Recalls United Nations General Assembly resolution 53/192, which *inter alia* calls upon specialized agencies to submit yearly progress reports to their governing bodies on measures taken and envisaged for the implementation of that and related resolutions;

"(b) Takes note of the information provided in the progress report of the Director-General (IDB.23/14), including the relevant information contained in other documents as indicated in paragraph 2 of the progress report;

"(c) Requests the Director-General, in the interest of reducing overlap, to provide the information requested in resolution 53/192 in future annual reports of the Organization exclusively."